

# Birth Defect Draws Attention at MEDRETE

(SANTA FE, PANAMA, April 11, 2006) – A shy boy with an unusual birth defect drew much more attention than he liked as he and his family came to the bilateral medical readiness training exercise



(MEDRETE) held in Santa Fe for two days, looking for funding to have surgery that might correct his deformity. The MEDRETE is a 10-day project between the U.S. and Panamanian governments to offer free health care in remote areas of Panama while giving health care providers experience at addressing health care issues in limited settings.

Carlos Grisano Gomez-Quintero, age 4, was born with his umbilical cord wrapped around his arm, strangulating it, such that his hand never developed properly and is all fused together. According to his mother, Virginia Quintero, a unique plastic surgery program known as Smiles performed one surgery on her son already, but he needs additional surgery to correct the deformity and cannot afford the trip from his home in Quebra Canasas, near Santa Fe, to Panama City, which is where the surgery would be done.

Media who reported on the MEDRETE were quick to report on the Quintero's situation as well, with the hope that the publicity would help their plight.